

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 11 and ending at line 20, as follows.

--As a conventional speech synthesis method, a synthesis method based on a waveform concatenation scheme is available. In the waveform concatenation synthesis method, the prosody is changed by the pitch synchronous waveform overlap adding method of pasting waveform element pieces corresponding to one or more ~~several~~ pitches at desired pitch intervals. The waveform concatenation synthesis method can obtain more natural synthetic speech than a synthesis method based on a parametric scheme, but suffers the problem of a narrow allowable range with respect to changes in prosody.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 22 and ending at page 3, line 13, as follows.

--In order to achieve the above object, a speech synthesis apparatus according to the present invention has the following arrangement. There is provided a speech synthesis apparatus having a database for managing phonemic piece data comprising a generating means, a search means, a research means, and a registration means. The generating means is for generating a second phoneme in consideration of a phonemic context for a first phoneme as a search target. The search means is for ~~the~~ searching the database for a phonemic piece data corresponding to the second phoneme. The re-search means is for generating a third phoneme by changing the phonemic context on the basis of the search result obtained by the search means,

and re-searching the database for phonemic piece data corresponding to the third phoneme. The registration means is for registering the search result obtained by the search means or the re-search means in a table in correspondence with the second or third phoneme.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 14 and ending at page 4, line 14, as follows.

--In order to achieve the above object, there is also provided a speech synthesis apparatus ~~according the present invention has the following arrangement. There is provided a speech synthesis apparatus~~ for performing speech synthesis by using phonemic piece data managed by a database, comprising a storage means for storing a table for managing position information indicating a position of phonemic piece data in the database in correspondence with a phoneme obtained in consideration of a phonemic context made to correspond to the phonemic piece data. The speech synthesis apparatus also comprises a calculation means for acquiring each phonemic context information of a phoneme group as a synthesis target and fundamental frequencies corresponding thereto and calculating an average of acquired fundamental frequencies and a search means for searching a phoneme group corresponding to the phonemic context information from the table. Additionally, the apparatus comprises an acquisition means for acquiring, from the table, position information of phonemic piece data corresponding to a predetermined phoneme of the phoneme group searched out by the search means, on the basis of the average of fundamental frequencies calculated by the calculation means and a changing means for acquiring phonemic piece data indicated by the position information acquired by the

acquisition means from the database, and changing a prosody of the acquired phonemic piece data.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 21 and ending at page 5, line 7, as follows.

--The [the] generating step is for generating a second phoneme in consideration of a phonemic context for a first phoneme as a search target. The search step is for searching the database for a phonemic piece data corresponding to the second phoneme. The re-search step is for generating a third phoneme by changing the phonemic context on the basis of the search result obtained in the search step, and re-searching the database for phonemic piece data corresponding to the third phoneme. Finally, the registration step is for registering the search result obtained in the search step or the re-search step in a table in correspondence with the second ~~these cond~~ or third phoneme.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8 and ending at page 6, line 8, as follows.

--In order to further achieve the above object, a control method for a speech synthesis apparatus according to the present invention has the following steps. There is provided a control method for a speech synthesis apparatus for performing speech synthesis by using phonemic piece data managed by a database, ~~comprising the~~. The control method includes storing a table for managing position information indicating a position of phonemic piece data in

the database in correspondence with a phoneme obtained in consideration of a phonemic context made to correspond to the phonemic piece data and ~~the acquiring each phonemic context~~ information of a phoneme group as a synthesis target and fundamental frequencies corresponding thereto and calculating an average of acquired fundamental frequencies. The control method also ~~comprises~~ includes ~~the search step of~~ searching a phoneme group corresponding to the phonemic context information from the table and ~~the acquisition step of~~ acquiring, from the table, position information of phonemic piece data corresponding to a predetermined phoneme of the phoneme group searched out in the search step, on the basis of the average of the calculated fundamental frequencies ~~calculated in the calculation step~~. Additionally, the method ~~comprises the changing step of~~ includes acquiring phonemic piece data indicated by the position information acquired in the acquisition step from the database, and changing a prosody of the acquired phonemic piece data.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9 and ending at page 7, line 4, as follows.

--To further achieve the above object, a computer-readable memory according to the present invention has the following program codes. There is provided a computer-readable memory storing program codes for controlling a speech synthesis apparatus having a database for managing phonemic piece data, ~~comprising~~. The computer-readable memory includes a program code for ~~the generating step of~~ generating a second phoneme in consideration of a phonemic context for a first phoneme as a search target; and a program code for ~~the search step of~~ searching

the database for a phonemic piece data corresponding to the second phoneme; The computer-readable memory also includes a program code for ~~the re-search step of~~ generating a third phoneme by changing the phonemic context on the basis of the obtained search result ~~obtained in the search step~~, and re-searching the database for phonemic piece data corresponding to the third phoneme; and a program code for ~~the registration step of~~ registering the obtained search result ~~obtained in the search step or the re-search step~~ in a table in correspondence with the second or third phoneme.--

Please substitute the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 5 and ending at page 8, line 8, as follows.

--Lastly, to further achieve the above object, a computer-readable memory according to the present invention has the following program codes. There is provided a computer-readable memory storing program codes for controlling a speech synthesis apparatus for performing speech synthesis by using phonemic piece data managed by a database, ~~by comprising.~~ The computer-readable memory comprises a program code for ~~the storage step of~~ storing a table for managing position information indicating a position of phonemic piece data in the database in correspondence with a phoneme obtained in consideration of a phonemic context made to correspond to the phonemic piece data and a program code for ~~the calculation step of~~ acquiring each phonemic context information of a phoneme group as a synthesis target and fundamental frequencies corresponding thereto and calculating an average of acquired fundamental frequencies. The computer-readable memory also comprises a program code for ~~the~~

~~search step of searching a phoneme group corresponding to the phonemic context information from the table; and a program code for the acquisition step of acquiring from the table, position information of phonemic piece data corresponding to a predetermined phoneme of the phoneme group searched out in the search step, on the basis of the average of calculated fundamental frequencies calculated in the calculation step; and. The computer-readable memory additionally includes a program code for the changing step of acquiring phonemic piece data indicated by the position information acquired in the acquisition step from the database, and changing a prosody of the acquired phonemic piece data.--~~